

Consultation Summary Paper

BIS consultation on a dual mandate for adult vocational education

16 June 2015

Opened 24 March 2015, closed 16 June 2015, Pearson lead: Sian Owen

Link to website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/adult-vocational-education-challenges-over-the-next-decade>

A brief introduction to Pearson

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A summary of the consultation

This consultation was published under the 2010 to 2015 Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government. It ran through to its conclusion but will not be taken as a blueprint for the new government. BIS welcomed general reactions however.

The consultation asked for views on the main challenges that face adult further education over the next decade. This document considered the role of higher vocational education, importance of helping individuals to gain the fundamental skills required for work and life, and the implications of these and wider government changes on adult further education colleges.

A summary of the Pearson response

Pearson welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this consultation on adult vocational education. As the consultation paper points out, whilst adult vocational education is a valuable part of the adult skills system it is often neglected by press and policy makers. It is also neglected in terms of public investment: this year alone adult education faces a 17% cut; 24% when protections are taken into account. This consultation provides a valuable opportunity to examine the importance of adult vocational education to individuals, employers and the economy as a whole, to increase its visibility, develop a clearer understanding of its mandate, and to open a conversation about its future.

Our submission considers some of the broad themes raised in the consultation and makes recommendations as to how these might be addressed. Our focus is on the following areas: :

- A dual mandate for adult vocational education
- The role of technology in further education
- Higher level vocational qualifications
- Employer engagement in higher level vocational education
- Funding higher level vocational education and priorities
- Adult further education and 'second chances'
- Adult education at lower levels and programmes of study